capacity of the existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher import through existing and new facilities. It is planned to exhaust entire waiting list throughout the country by 2001-02.

Statement

District	Districtwise details of waiting list for LPG connections in Maharashtra as on 1.4.98	Districtwise detail of LPG connections released in Maharashtra during 1997-98
Ahmednagar	58323	20289
Akola	17929	4997
Amravati	23447	5279
Aurangabad	31764	15514
Beed	11308	2347
Bhandara	34814	9891
Bombay	234217	93969
Buldhana	9983	5299
Chandrapur	22963	10856
Dhule	13963	15308
Gadchiroli	6197	1945
Jalgaon	53717	27878
Jalna	4214	2849
Kolhapur	81874	34740
Latur	6390	4694
Nagpur	166053	35825
Nanded	9447	5600
Nasik	50912	30028
Osmanabad	839	1667
Parbhani	15494	4040
Pune	170580	67300
Raigad	29112	16175
Ratnagiri	17985	2337
Sangli	39421	19646
Satara	2020	30018
Sindhudurg	5971	1053
Solapur	31234	14193
Thane	186782	73785
Wardha	19484	7973
Yavatmal	25989	8220

Crude Oil Production

1763. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the level of crude oil production in areas other than Bombay High;

(b) if so, the details of earmarked wells for enhanced crude oil production; and

(c) the expected additional production of crude oil from new fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The crude oil producing areas, other than Bombay High are Gujarat, Assam, Tamil Nadu (onshore and offshore), Arunachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh (onshore and offshore). Various steps taken to enhance production of crude oil from these areas are:—

(i) Implementation of enhanced oil recovery techniques and extending some of EOR Schemes from pilot scale to full scale field application.

(ii) Better reservoir management.

(iii) Revival/repairs/stimulation of old wells and redistribution of water injection.

(iv) Installation of artificial lift.

(v) Hiring of service of consultants for field specific problem.

(vi) Optimisation of production through infill drilling, drilling of multi-lateral wells, extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling etc.

The additional production from the above measures can not be quantified. The production from new fields depends upon new discoveries.

LPG Crisis in Guwahati

1764. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Guwahati is facing LPG crisis due to lack of coordination between the officials and the dealers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve LPG supplies; and

(c) the long term monitoring mechanism evolved to ensure that similar difficulties do not disrupt supplies in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There was a marginal LPG backlog in the North-Eastern States during April-May, 1998 due to agitation resorted to by a section of employees of Indian Oil Corporation. As per the existing practice, officials of IOC were regularly coordinating and interacting with LPG distributors for restoring normalcy in supplies. Additional supplies were arranged from other plants of IOC(MD) and IOC(AOD) and Oil India, Duliajan and the backlog was cleared during May, 1998.

(c) Whenever LPG backlog develop due to law and order problems, industrial problems etc., oil companies take immediate measures to met the demand in the affected markets by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays and arranging supplies from nearby bottling plants, to clear the LPG backlog.

Oil pool deficit

1765. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil pool deficit at the end of April, 1998;

(b) the factors responsible for oil pool deficit;

(c) whether Government propose to operationalise a contingency plan to reduce the oil pool deficit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies as on 30.6.97 were estimated to be Rs. 18,271 crore. The pool account got adversely affected during 1996-97 due to steep increase in the prices of the crude oil & petroleum products in the international market, decline in indigenous production of crude oil, Rupee-Dollar exchange rate variation, increase in the Rail freight and changes in the Customs & Excise duty announced in the Finance Bill for 1996-97. The Government in September, 97 have decided that the outstandings of the oil companies from OCC would be taken over by the Government by issue of Special Government Bonds. The oil companies have been issued Special Government Bonds of Rs. 12,984 crore effective 2.3.98. The Government had also decided that pricing of major petroleum products including HSD will be fixed on principles of import parity. The Government have initiated the phased programme for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism and the pricing of petroleum products like Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, Paraffin-wax etc. have been decontrolled w.e.f. 1.4.98. The system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished. Cost plus formula for indigenous crude oil producers and shipping of crude oil has been withdrawn.

कांडला—भटिंडा पाइपलाइन से तेल की चोरी

1766. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कांडला-भटिण्डा तेल पाइपलाइन में से कई जगह छेद करके तेल की चोरी किये जाने की घटनाएं प्रकाश में आई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इससे कुल कितनी क्षति होने का अनुमान है; और

(ग) तेल चोरी की उपरोक्त घटनाओं की रोकथाम के लिये क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?